

## Controlling Mercury Emissions

Viewpoint of Wisconsin DNR presented to Mercury CAC by Lloyd Eagan - January 9, 2002



## Why Propose NR 446?

- Very <u>important</u> issue from an environmental standpoint
- Human health effects well documented historically and currently
- ◆CDC data shows 10% of U.S. women have blood levels that would harm unborn
- ◆ Ecological data also shows persistent environmental impacts.



## Why Propose NR 446

- ◆ We believe prompt action is vital!
- ◆ Economic interests are impacted too.
- Wisconsin has as much at stake in this issue as anybody.
- We can influence national efforts.
- ◆ Wisconsin did something similar with S02 and Acid Rain which worked well.



## History of NR 446

- Mercury reduction efforts have been considered for 11 years.
- ◆ We have known for some time that emissions of mercury are a significant contributing factor to the presence of mercury in aquatic life and human beings.



## History Continued:

- ◆DNR has had a long term mercury advisory process:
  - ◆ The Mercury Stakeholders Group met in 1999
  - ◆ State Legislation considered in 2000-2001
  - ◆ NRB acted upon citizen petition in 2000
  - Current citizen review and recommendations in process



## Why Propose NR 446?

- ◆ Federal approach to mercury is limited may only cover 1/2 of WI emissions
- ◆ Federal MACT cannot consider trading and other flexible approaches to emissions reductions
- ◆ Federal interest in multi-pollutant legislation is strong and would greatly impact utilities
- Ensure early reductions are credited



# Why Propose NR 446?

- ◆ Need to reduce emissions comprehensively.
- ◆ Reasonable phased mercury emissions reductions from an established baseline
- ◆ Include flexibility with banking and trading
- Respond to electric reliability concerns
- Periodically re-evaluate and adjust rule if needed for industry or environmental issues



#### Where Do We Go From Here?

- ◆ Need for constructive input to make our mercury reduction effort effective and feasible.
- Must make credible mercury emissions reduction progress
- ◆ Must be economically viable
- March 2002 target to deliver recommendations to Secretary Bazzell



### Where Do We Go From Here?

- Consider the Precautionary Principle.
- ◆ When we have some information about harm, even though the science is uncertain we should act.
- ◆DNR will act but would like recommendations to make a better rule.



### Where Do We Go From Here?

- ◆ Agree on approach to "Value Issues"
  - Share viewpoints
  - Document areas of difference
  - Provide measurement of intensity of difference
- ◆ Agree on approach to "Technical Issues"
  - What is known and what TAG will do
  - What is unknown
  - Recommendations from CAC



## **Opportunities**

- ◆ Opportunity: Provide a "cutting edge" model for the country and drive meaningful regulations
- ◆ Opportunity Your input will affect the WAY in which DNR prepares regulation.



#### **Constraints**

- ◆ Time: Dragging out the CAC process out will compromise the opportunities
- ◆ The DNR Secretary will advance Mercury Emission Reduction Rules with or without CAC input
- ◆ The scientific understanding of Mercury emissions and their public health and environmental impacts isn't perfect